**From:** Jessica Winter
**To:** Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
**Subject:** Re: Fw: LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach Memo
**Date:** 01/21/2010 11:40 AM

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Thanks for the info- next Monday all day and Wednesday morning are
pretty booked, but the rest of my schedule is pretty flexible.
--Jessica

Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
> Jessica, attached are our comments. I apologize for not sending these
> to you previously. I will have to figure out how that happened.
>
> As for modeling total PCBs, my understanding is that there are two
> issues:
>
> 1) Detection frequency of the congeners we are interested in modeling
> (PCB 126 and PCB 77). The detection frequency of PCB 126 and 77 in
> water were 81% and 16% respectively; the detection frequency for all
> other media were greater than 93% (See Table 1, Appendix A of the
> Bioaccumulation Report).
> 2) The amount of congener sediment data available. Congeners were
> analyzed in 293 out of 1514 surface sediment aroclor results) and 151
> out of 1539 subsurface sediment aroclor results.
>
> As indicated in the memo, we do have different congener patterns and PCB
> sources throughout the harbor so looking at total PCBs alone is not
> necessarily a good option. I think that the homolog approach has merit
> but I am concerned about impacts on the schedule. It may be that we
> look at the homologs estimated based on congener sums but not try to
> extract the homolog data from the aroclor data - which adds schedule
> time and uncertainty.
>
> I may try to set up a meeting with Earl Hayter and Karl Gustavson next
> week. I will include you since you seem to have some good thoughts on
> this matter.
>
> Thanks, Eric
>
> (See attached file: QEAFATEModelLtr112409.pdf)
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> | Date: |
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> |01/21/2010 10:53 AM
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> | Subject: |
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> |Re: Fw: LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach Memo
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> Hi Eric,
> I just reached your voicemail and it says you're coming up to Seattle
> this week- hope the nice weather holds out for you.
> I'm looking over LWG's memo on the proposed approach for tPCB modeling,
> and I realized I haven't seen the comments EPA sent to LWG after the
> fate and transport modeling meeting in November. I'm not sure what the
> reasons were for modeling tPCB rather than individual congeners-- I'm
> assuming it's because there's more data on total PCB concentrations in
> the river as opposed to congener-specific data? The approach they're
> suggesting here (modeling homolog classes and then scaling up to get
> tPCB) doesn't seem to solve that problem because we still have to
> estimate homolog concentrations from Aroclor data, which is doable but
> hard/introduces uncertainty, especially where we're dealing with
> weathered chemicals and where (I assume) we don't have the original

> chromatograms from the Aroclor measurements, just concentrations. Were
> there other reasons for asking LWG to model tPCB instead of congeners?
>
> The other reason I can think of for modeling total PCBs rather than
> congeners might be because we are concerned about one congener degrading
>
> into another and disappearing from the model. If that's the issue, then
> perhaps we want to pursue what QEA said at the 11-18-09 meeting about
> QEAFATE's ability to model multiple chemicals simultaneously to simulate
>
> interactions and degradation. But there might be other reasons that I've
>
> forgotten.
>
> I'm wondering if the food web model will treat PCBs as one entity or
> will split PCBs into homolog or congener classes.
> --Jessica
>
>
> Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
>
>> ----- Forwarded by Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US on 01/20/2010 12:47 PM
>> -----
>> From: "Jennifer Woronets" <jworonets@anchorqea.com>
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>> Date: 01/20/2010 12:43 PM
>> Subject: LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach Memo
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>> Eric, Chip,
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>> Please see attached LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach memo.
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>> Please let us know if you have any questions.
>>
>> Thank you,
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